Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 154259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY HELGASON

- 1. DURING CORDIAL, INFORMAL CHAT WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE, HELGASON SAID MINISTER REGRETED THAT ILLNESS PREVENTED JULY VISIT BUT HOPED TO BE ABLE TO RESCHEDULE TRIP TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER. HELGASON ADDED THAT US DECISION ON TERMINAL ISSUE WAS DISAPPOINTMENT FOR ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER PLANNED TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WHEN HE COMES.
- 2. VINE REPLIED US SIDE WAS ALSO SORRY MINISTER HAD TO CANCEL VISIT AND WE WERE PREPARED FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TERMINAL ISSUE. HELGASON WAS ADVISED THAT US INTENDS TO LIVE UP TO 1974 MOU, INCLUDING SEPARATION OF FACILITIES, BUT WE DID NOT PERCEIVE US DECISION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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TERMINAL BUILDING AS A FLAT REJECTION IN VIEW OF SUBSTANTIAL PLANNED US CONTRIBUTION TO TERMINAL COMPLEX IN FORM OF ROADS, RAMPS AND TAXIWAYS.

3. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE STUDY ON US SEA CONTROL MISSION (GUIDANCE SENT SEPTEL) WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY.

HELGASON VOICED CONCERN THAT THIS WOULD RECEIVE EXTENSIVE PRESS PLAY AND HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ICELANDIC CITIZENRY ALREADY TURNED OFF ON NATO BY LAST COD WAR. HELGASON FELT REAL DANGER IN ICELAND IS LIKELIHOOD THAT STUDY WOULD BE VIEWED AS OFFICIAL USG POLICY. CHRISTOPHER

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